

## SAYS WOOD SOUGHT \$5,000 FOR VOTE IN P.D. CONTRACT

Witness in New York Probe Gives Startling Testimony About Wood.

New York, Dec. 17.—Testimony that Public Service Commissioner Robert C. Wood told an employee of the Union Switch & Signal Company that a \$5,000 commission "would be about right" if he used his influence to swing signal contracts of the Centre street loop to the Union Company of Pittsburgh, was offered before the Thompson legislative investigating committee yesterday.

The witness was Sidney G. Johnson. Until last July he was employed by the Union Switch & Signal Company and since then he has been employed by the General Railway Signal Company of Rochester. Johnson said that Commissioner Wood soon after his appointment to the commission, called him by telephone and asked him to drop in at Wood's private office in Exchange place.

Asked About Loop Work. When Johnson arrived the Commissioner asked about the Union Co.'s bids for the Centre street loop work. "Then he asked me," the witness continued, "if there would not be a commission in that contract if I used my influence so our company would get it. He said that a contract of that kind should carry a commission of \$5,000. That would be about right," he said.

Johnson said that Commissioner Wood had made a definite proposition to him but that he told the Commissioner he had no authority to act. So he said he went to Swiswale, Pa., and talked over the situation in Col. Prout's office. W. D. Uptegraft was present, he said, at this conference. The Wood proposition was talked over, he said, and suggestions were made. Then he testified that he went to New York and saw Commissioner Wood, who asked him about the conference. He said he told Mr. Wood that he was in no position to talk to him about the alleged deal.

Gives More Detail. Johnson's story differed slightly from the story told yesterday by Mr. Uptegraft and was more complete. He described the meeting of the board of directors at which he and Col. Prout were asked to resign. He said that he afterwards obtained a position with the General Railway Signal Co., of which W. W. Salmon is president.

Johnson became greatly affected as he told of his resignation and of Mr. Salmon's kindness in giving an even better position to him than the one he had held with the Union Switch & Signal Company. He showed such emotion that he asked permission to leave the room for a few moments until he could regain control of his feelings.

When Johnson first took the stand, Deputy Attorney-General Lewis, told him that he was before the committee as a witness because his name had been mentioned at yesterday's session by Mr. Uptegraft.

"I am going to ask you to sign an immunity waiver," said Mr. Lewis. "I would rather not sign a waiver," replied the witness, "but I will tell you all that I know."

Asked in regard to the Centre street contract, he said that the Union company's bid was \$23,000 and that of the Federal company, which obtained the contract, was slightly lower. It was in the spring of 1914, he said, when the bids were submitted.

"What happened next?" asked Mr. Lewis. Johnson replied that the various bids were held up for some time and that in the meantime Public Service Commissioner Wood telephoned to him to find out some particulars about the Union company's system.

"I went to his office," said Johnson, "and told him what I could about our system." A short time after this first meeting he said Commissioner Wood called him up by telephone again and arranged for a second interview.

"He asked me to meet him in an office on Exchange place," said the witness. "I don't remember the number. I went there and found Commissioner Wood and a young man that I did not know. The Commissioner asked this young man to step outside and he did so."

"\$5,000 About Right." "Well, Mr. Wood asked me whether there could not be a commission in this contract affair if he could influence it for me," testified Johnson. "What did you say?" questioned Merton E. Lewis, counsel for the committee.

"I told him that I had no authority to talk to him on a matter of that kind and he went on to say that he thought that a job of that kind ought to carry \$5,000."

"Later that same evening or the next day I telephoned Col. Prout at Pittsburgh telling him about the talk that I had had with Commissioner Wood."

"Did you repeat to Col. Prout that Commissioner Wood had asked for a cash compensation to influence the contract?"

"Yes sir." "What did Prout say to that?" "I remember that Col. Prout said, 'You can't quarrel with Wood, don't antagonize him. You'll have to tow him along for the time being.'"

Then the witness told how in the ordinary course of business he had some of Swiswale to see Col. Prout.

"In his office," continued Mr. Johnson, "was Mr. Uptegraft also. Prout wanted to know how things were going—as he usually did—and the question of the disposition of the Wood matter came up."

Col. Prout asked Mr. Uptegraft for any suggestions, but he said he didn't know how to handle it.

"I stated that I was there for instructions. During the conversation it was suggested that, if they decided to go through with the matter, it might be charged on my personal expense account. I objected to this method—the more I thought of it the more did I think it unfair."

"I told Col. Prout that I would not distribute any money if the management of the company would not stand sponsor for it. Otherwise I was prepared to 'check up' my job."

The consultation, the witness declared, brought them at that time to no definite conclusion. He said he returned to New York, where he saw Commissioner Wood again. He could not recall whether it was through invitation or on his own initiative.

"While we were talking about the

situation, Wood wanted to know how that matter stood, and I told him I was in no position to talk about it."

After telling of the formal hearing before the Public Service Commission, which, he said, was a long drawn out technical argument, Mr. Johnson, following the natural sequence of his own activities, told of the now famous meeting of the board of directors of the Union Company at Pittsburgh, July 15, 1914.

"During the meeting," continued Mr. Johnson, "my resignation was asked for, while I was outside. I was also told that Col. Prout had resigned his presidency."

"Then I asked permission to go before the board of directors and talk to them personally. I did so. Col. Prout then said that it was unfair to discharge me for a matter entirely beyond my province. Subsequently I left the employ of the Union Company."

"Within a week Mr. Salmon, president of the General company, very kindly offered me a job after I told him I had left the Union company. I was very much chagrined, very broken up at being dismissed from the Union company after fifteen years' service there. I asked Mr. Salmon to let me have the month of August off and he very kindly said I could."

Story False, Wood Reiterates. Public Service Commissioner Wood did not attend the hearing of the Thompson legislative committee yesterday, and when seen at his office declined to comment further on the testimony before the committee in which his name was connected with a bribe fund of \$5,000 for a contract for signal equipment in the Centre street loop.

"I will stand exactly on what I have said, that the matter is all news to me and that the story is absolutely false."

## TRAINS WILL STOP FOR THOSE COMING HOME FOR HOLIDAYS

Some Branch Line Runs Will But Out Christmas and New Years.

Special stops to accommodate persons who are coming home to spend the holidays in Connecticut for Christmas or New Year have been announced by the New Haven road as follows:

Train No. 284, leaving New York 2:57 p. m., will make additional stops at 155th street, 3:07 p. m. (to take only), Columbus avenue 3:27 p. m., Pelham 3:39 p. m., Mamaroneck 3:39 p. m.

Train No. 286, leaving New York 3:54 p. m., will make additional stops at Mt. Vernon 4:22 p. m., New Rochelle 4:26 p. m., Mamaroneck 4:30 p. m.

Train No. 244, leaving New York 4:23 p. m., will make additional stops at Mt. Vernon 4:50 p. m., Columbus avenue 4:52 p. m., Pelham 4:54 p. m., Larchmont Manor 4:58 p. m., Mamaroneck 5 p. m., Harrison 5:03 p. m., Rye 5:05 p. m.

Train No. 280, leaving New York at 5:13 p. m., will make additional stops at Mt. Vernon 5:40 p. m., Columbus avenue 5:41 p. m., Pelham 5:42 p. m., New Rochelle 5:44 p. m., Larchmont Manor 5:46 p. m., Mamaroneck 5:48 p. m., Harrison 5:51 p. m., Rye 5:53 p. m., Port Chester 5:55 p. m., and will run 10 minutes late to New Haven; due 7:28 p. m.

Train No. 246, leaving New York 5:32 p. m., will make an additional stop at Port Chester 6:24 p. m.

Train No. 260, leaving New York 6:08 p. m., will make additional stops at Mt. Vernon 6:34 p. m., Columbus avenue 6:36 p. m., Pelham 6:38 p. m., Larchmont Manor 6:42 p. m., Mamaroneck 6:44 p. m., Harrison 6:47 p. m., Rye 6:49 p. m.

Train No. 271, leaving New Haven 5:55 a. m., and Stamford 7:18 a. m., will make additional stops at Sound Beach 7:20 a. m., Riverdale 7:22 a. m., Cos Cob 7:25 a. m., Greenwich 7:28 a. m., Port Chester 7:30 a. m., due 125th St. 8:03 a. m., (to leave only), due New York 8:20 a. m.

Train No. 157, advertised to leave Port Chester 7:28 a. m., for New York will leave at 7:36 a. m., run eight minutes later and make an additional stop at Columbus avenue 8:03 a. m.

Train No. 251, leaving South Norwalk 7:18 a. m., and Stamford 7:39 a. m., will make additional stops at Port Chester 7:52 a. m., Rye 7:55 a. m., Harrison 8:00 a. m., Mamaroneck 8:04 a. m., Larchmont Manor 8:07 a. m., New Rochelle 8:12 a. m., due 125th St. 8:31 a. m., (to leave only), due New York 8:43 a. m.

Train No. 263, advertised to leave Bridgeport at 7:34 a. m., will leave at 7:40 a. m., making stops and schedule of train No. 273 to South Norwalk; due 125th St. 9:05 a. m., (to leave only), due New York 9:14 a. m.

A special train will be run, South Norwalk to New York, on the schedule of the 7:40 a. m. train from South Norwalk, and eight minutes earlier than the 8:31 a. m. local from Port Chester.

Attention is called to trains indicated in time tables as not running on December 25, 1915, and January 1, 1916, between the following points:

New York and New Rochelle, Port Chester, Stamford, South Norwalk, New Canaan, Westfield and South Deedfield, and on Holyoke, Williamburgh and Turner's Falls Branches.

Harlem River and New Rochelle, Meriden (West Main St.) and Waterbury, Waterville and Waterbury, Watertown and Waterbury.

## NEW MINING LAWS NEEDED FOR U. S. SAYS SECRETARY LANE.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Secretary Lane in his forthcoming annual report speaks of the necessity for a new set of mining laws. "The old code," he says, "is no elaborate and complicated that the best of brains can not tell what the law is. The truth is to be that between mining engineers and mining lawyers the rules of the game have been refined into obscurity; and if Congress were to say to the President that he might select three men familiar with mining and mine owners' difficulties to suggest a new mining code to Congress, it would, I believe, be giving in earnest a new freedom to the mining industry."

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## SAYS PRESIDENT AND PONTIFF CAN END CONFLICT NOW

Berne, Switzerland, Dec. 17.—Gen. Wille, commander in chief of the Swiss army, a soldier of the school of Hindenburg and Joffre, declared the time had come for "the two most powerful forces in the world" to combine to end the European war. These two, he said, were the President of the United States and the Pope.

Gen. Wille, discussing a military preparedness, described it as not only a defense of the state and its citizens, but as a powerful force for discipline and efficiency in industry and commerce.

In suggesting a peace proposal from President Wilson and Pope Benedict, Gen. Wille said:

"A united appeal from these two most powerful influences in the world, seconded, as it would be, by other neutrals, could not but be heeded by all the warring nations."

Gen. Wille said he was not a Catholic, yet the powerful influence exerted by the pope was recognized in Europe without regard to religion. The time had passed, the general said, for any weak or halting proposals from secondary sources. Only the great existing forces could speak with the emphasis commanding attention, and Gen. Wille said he was convinced through President Wilson and Pope Benedict there was a good prospect of restoring peace if they would take a strong and united initiative.

Gen. Wille is one of the well-known student-soldiers of Europe. He knew the older Von Moltke and was associated with Hindenburg and Joffre—men who combine practical knowledge of warfare with a study of military art as related to the state and civil society. He has had exceptional opportunities for combining both the practical and theoretical

side of army organization.

At the artillery school at Potsdam he was associated with many of the conspicuous figures of the present war and an acquaintance formed at that time with Emperor William is strong today. There, too, he married a relative of the great Bismarck.

Gen. Wille is a believer in the rigid German school of military organization, rather than the British system, which he declared looks upon military training rather lightly as a "sport."

"Military preparation is something more than a defense of the state and its citizens," Gen. Wille pointed out. "Its first purpose is, of course, national defense and a readiness to safeguard the life, property and security of the citizen. But another purpose hardly less important, is the training and disciplining of a large body of men, and the habits of discipline thus gradually installed into the great body of the community."

In this way it builds up a disciplined order of thought, of efficiency, not only among soldiers but in every branch of civil life, making men more effective in commerce, industry, manufacture, trade and all the branches of civil activity.

This disciplined training, Gen. Wille believes, has been the secret of Germany's tremendous commercial expansion in recent years. Back of it was the military precision and order which every branch of the community had acquired from years of military service, so that the German system, he says, has accomplished two results: first, an organization of national defense unparalleled for completeness and efficiency, and second, a highly disciplined and efficient civilian society suited to compete on the most effective terms in the world's competition of commerce, trade and industry.

On the other hand, Gen. Wille believes that the British system, which draws its officers largely from men of means and leisure, has not yielded the same efficient results, either as an arm of national defense in time or need, or in making the civil community of England disciplined and efficient in the world's competition.

When reference was made to the similarity of the United States and Switzerland as republics and neutrals, Gen. Wille said the interests of the two countries were much the same, but their military systems differed widely. Switzerland having compulsory service.

There was nothing incongruous, he felt, in having compulsory service in a country based on democratic principles. In Switzerland, which was a type approaching a pure democracy, the people had a strong military spirit, resulting from living in a country surrounded by military upheavals for hundreds of years. Therefore, they readily yielded their service in a compulsory military system.

Gen. Wille believes the steady tendency in Europe will be toward compulsory service, and that all countries will be obliged to adopt it as a measure of self-defense and national security.

POINTS OF INTEREST. For useful and practical Christmas gifts there is nothing that would be more appreciated than a choice, reliable fur muff or neck piece, a silk waist, silk petticoats, ankara wool scarfs and caps. You will find an immense array of these goods at E. H. Dillon & Co.'s, 1105 Main street, at bargain prices.—Adv.

The Woman's Boot Shop. One of our chief efforts at this time of the year is to make others happy and our experience teaches that smart footwear comes very close to mi-lady's heart.

The Woman's Boot Shop is offering in its assortment this week three new boots, either of which would gladden the heart of any lady. A bronze kid button, a blue kid button, both on the new Princess cut, and a black glazed kid lace in high cut are the attractions, as well as a large selection of comfy slippers. The address is 1116 Main street and the shop is upstairs next to Riker's Drug Store.—Adv.

Farmer Want Ads. One Cent a Word

## DEALERS REPORT FISH SCARCE IN LOCAL MARKETS

Many Shipments Are Held Up By Tie-Up of Railroads Due to Storm.

Many Bridgeporters today for the first time in many years were unable to eat their favorite fish. Railway congestion was responsible for the non-delivery of large quantities of mackerel and cod from Boston. One dealer reported that he had six days' orders "somewhere" along the railroad but they had not arrived.

The boats between New York and Bridgeport last night arrived with a sufficient quantity to prevent a famine but the selections in local markets were far short of the usual varieties.

## LIVE STOCK MARKET.

New York, Dec. 16.—Medium to choice steers sold at \$7.25 to \$9 per 100 lbs.; oxen at \$6 to \$6.50; bulls at \$4 to \$7; cows at \$2.75 to \$5.75; choice fat Ohio cows at \$6.40.

Corn to prime veals sold at \$8 to \$12.50 per 100 lbs.; culls at \$6.50 to \$7.50; barnyard calves at \$5 to \$6; fed calves at \$6.50 to \$7.50; city dressed veals 14 to 18 1-2c; country dressed higher at 12 1-2 to 15 1-2c.

Common to fairly prime sheep sold at \$4.50 to \$6 per 100 lbs.; culls at \$3.50 and lambs at \$8.50 to \$10.10; culls at \$7 to \$8. Dressed mutton 9 to 11 1-2c; best wethers 12c; dressed lambs 13 to 16c; a few hog dressed selling at 16 1-2c; country dressed hothouse lambs 9 to \$10.

Good medium weight hogs sold at \$7.10 per 100 lbs.; roughs at \$6.

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Count Karolyi, leader of Hungary's independence party, is quoted as demanding peace as a reward for the victories of the army.